

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3673
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
MALE CALVES IN MILITARY FARMS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Military Farms male calves between 14-21 days are given away to the villagers but by then they are so weak that either they do not survive or reach slaughter houses, thereby wasting valuable national resources;
- (b) whether at the time of the birth of the male calves are heavier by about 2 kilos but in course of 2-3 weeks, their weight is far less than the female calves;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not providing full ration to male calves;
- (d) whether Military farms have good quality of Sahiwal breed of cattle but good part of their semen is wasted; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for not having proper arrangements for making available the same to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) Military Farms have a policy of offering male calves free of cost to cattle breeders, regimental/private dairies, Government/semi-Government Institutions, recognized religious institutions like Gau Sadan, Gaushala, Gau Ashram etc. for further rearing by them. Military Farms do not send calves to slaughter houses. No brutality or cruelty is done to the calves.
- (b) & (c): The average birth weight of male and female calves is about 35 Kgs and 27 Kgs respectively. The male calves are reared for 14 days and fed their full entitlement of ration as per the policy. It is incorrect to say that the male calves weigh less than the female calves in 2-3 weeks of their birth.
- (d) & (e): Yes Sir, Military Farms are having good quality of Sahiwal breed of cattle. Military Farms are preserving the excess semen of Sahiwal breed for their own use.